

# The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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## Congress Approves Extension Of OPA

Numerous Amendments Voted Will Weaken Future Price Control Operations

MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS REVIEWED

Program Credited with Keeping Cost of Living from Rising as Much as in First World War

One of the last important actions of Congress before it recessed was to give the Office of Price Administration a new lease on life. The legislative act under which this agency had operated for nearly two and a half years expired June 30. Weeks of intense debate took place before the two houses of Congress finally agreed upon a revised OPA. Forced by the June 30th deadline, plus the desire to recess in order to attend the two national political conventions, members of Congress acted hastily in the final hours to push through a compromise measure.

Consequently, the OPA will continue to operate for at least another year. Its fate from then on will depend upon whether our country is still at war and whether conditions are such as to render further price control and rationing unnecessary.

No one is completely satisfied with the compromise bill extending the life of OPA. Like all compromises, it is a give-and-take affair. The extreme critics of OPA who fought for drastic revisions in this agency failed in their purpose, as did the all-out supporters who were opposed to any important changes.

### Amendments Accepted

It is a significant fact, however, that every change seriously considered or agreed upon by Congress was in the direction of weakening the authority of the OPA and of increasing the protection and benefits enjoyed by individuals or business concerns in their dealings with that agency. Here are a few examples:

1. The amendment proposed by Representative Dirksen of Illinois sought to permit all legal controversies involving the OPA to be tried in any federal court. Such disputes had previously been handled by a special Emergency Court of Appeals, the judges of which were selected by the Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court. Opponents of the Dirksen plan argued that it would lead to endless litigation; that there would be conflicting court decisions in different parts of the country, making it impossible for the OPA to fix the same prices on similar products throughout the nation. The Dirksen bill was finally rejected, but it was agreed that certain types of OPA cases could be taken to the regular federal courts. In addition, the new bill provides for a review board to hear protests against OPA orders and to advise Price Administrator Chester Bowles. He is not obliged, however, to act upon this advice.

(Concluded on page 2)



American—1944

REPRODUCED IN RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

## America

By the late Stephen Vincent Benét, in his recently published book, "America," (New York: Farrar and Rinehart. \$1.50).

There is a country of hope, there is a country of freedom. There is a country where all sorts of different people, drawn from every nation in the world, get along together under the same big sky. They go to any church they choose—Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Mohammedan, Buddhist—and no man may be persecuted there for his religion. The men and women of this country elect the people they wish to govern them, remove those people by vote—not by revolution—if they feel their representatives have done badly, speak their minds about their government and about the running of their country at all times, stay themselves and yet stay loyal to one cause, one country, and one flag.

The flag is the Stars and Stripes. The country is the United States of America. The cause is the cause of democracy.

It is not an earthly paradise, a Garden of Eden, or a perfect state. It does not pretend to be any of those things.

It has not solved every problem of how men and women should live. It has made mistakes in its own affairs, mistakes in the affairs of the world. But it looks to the future always—to a future of free men and women, where there shall be bread and work, security and liberty for the children of mankind.

It does not want to rule the world or set up an American empire in which Americans will be the master race and other people subject races. If you ask any real American whether he believes in a master race, you will get a long stare or a long laugh. Americans do not believe in master races.

It is a fighting country, born in battle, unified in battle, ready and willing always to fight for its deep beliefs. It has never lost a war. But it does not believe that war and the martial spirit are the end and goal of man. It honors the memory of its great soldiers—men like Washington and Grant and Lee—as it honors the names of those who fight for it today. But every one of those men fought for something more than conquest. When the wars were done, they said: "Let us have peace. Let us build up the land. Let us make something, build something, grow something that was not there before. Let us try to make a good country—a place where people can live in friendship and neighborliness." . . .

Behind every American soldier in this war stands the spirit of the country he serves. It may be misinterpreted, forgotten, badly expressed, even betrayed by the individual. But it is there. We do not claim to have put an army of angels in the field. They are average Americans, brought up in freedom, fighting for freedom. That is all. They are tall and short, dark and fair, talkative and silent—men who work with their hands, men who work with their heads—men who come from little towns and big cities and quiet farms—all sorts of men. But behind them all, whether they are able to talk about it or not, there is a spirit. A spirit and an idea.

## U. S. French Policy Strongly Criticized

Allies Still Refuse to Recognize de Gaulle's Committee as Provisional Government

NEED FOR EARLY AGREEMENT SEEN

With French Territory Now Liberated, Problems of Civil Administration Must Be Dealt With

If the invasion of Europe is progressing according to schedule, from a military standpoint, the same cannot be said for developments on the diplomatic front. Nearly a month after Hitler's Atlantic Wall was successfully breached, no accord has been reached with those Frenchmen who claim to be the political leaders of France—the Committee of National Liberation, or the Provisional Government of the French Republic, as the committee headed by General Charles de Gaulle calls itself.

If anything, the confusion which has clouded relations between the United States and British governments, on the one hand, and General de Gaulle and his followers on the other, has become more confounded since the invasion. Negotiations are said to be under way, looking toward a solution of this thorny political problem, but there are few indications that a settlement is in sight. De Gaulle himself may or may not visit President Roosevelt in Washington to discuss the problems and to attempt to work out a solution.

### Gains for de Gaulle

Meanwhile, General de Gaulle has made several gains in his long tug-of-war with the British and Americans. His group has been recognized as the provisional government of France by the governments of Czechoslovakia, Poland, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Yugoslavia. He has made a short visit to towns which have been liberated and, according to all reports, was warmly welcomed by the native inhabitants. Thus his claim that he and his committee have the overwhelming support of the French people has been given considerable support.

But General de Gaulle is far from satisfied with the existing state of affairs. He has publicly denounced "the seizure of power over France by the Allied Command." By this, he was not referring to the Allied landings on French soil, but to the failure of the Allies to turn political control of the liberated areas over to Frenchmen. He has strongly criticized the Allies for printing the French currency which Allied soldiers took with them when they entered Normandy, claiming that the printing of money was a function which belonged to the French.

Nor has the general been satisfied with vocal protests to register his disapproval. He has taken matters into his own hands. He has appointed representatives of his own to administer the civil affairs of the towns and re-

(Concluded on page 7)



# Life of OPA Extended

(Concluded from page 1)

2. Violators of price ceilings enjoy added protection under the revised OPA. Their fines for certain types of overcharging have been reduced. Their pleas of violating price rules unintentionally will be given more weight—in other words, they will not be held responsible if they fail to keep informed on price ceilings. Moreover, the OPA is now prohibited from depriving anyone of the right to sell rationed goods because of price violations.

3. Arrangements have been made under the new OPA bill to bring somewhat higher prices to cotton farmers. These prices will not be increased nearly so much as they would have been if the amendment which was submitted by Senator Bankhead of Alabama had been adopted. His bill would have led to a considerable increase in cotton prices which, in turn, would have boosted clothing prices. A compromise was finally worked out which will give cotton farmers only a moderate price increase and which will not seriously affect the cost of living.

## "Parity" Prices

4. The President has been asked by Congress to see that growers of a number of leading farm products receive at least "parity" prices (parity is a level of prices which, after taking into account the general cost of living, has been agreed upon by the Roosevelt administration as fair and proper for various farm products). Congress did

mean to provide additional protection for Black Market operators. They contend that the OPA has become too authoritative and powerful, making it necessary for Congress to safeguard individuals and business firms affected by OPA rules and regulations.

## Scope of Operations

Whatever the truth of these conflicting claims, it is quite evident that Congress, in placing restrictions upon the OPA, was reflecting the widespread dissatisfaction which has developed toward that agency. The very nature of its work and the vast scope of its operations cause it to be unpopular with a great many people even under the best of circumstances. Chester Bowles, OPA chief, recently described to a Senate committee the enormous task which has confronted his organization. He said:

"Everyone will agree that the OPA has a big job. But no one can fully realize how big that job is.

"Today we control upwards of eight million prices and our regulations reach into three million business establishments at every level of production and trade.

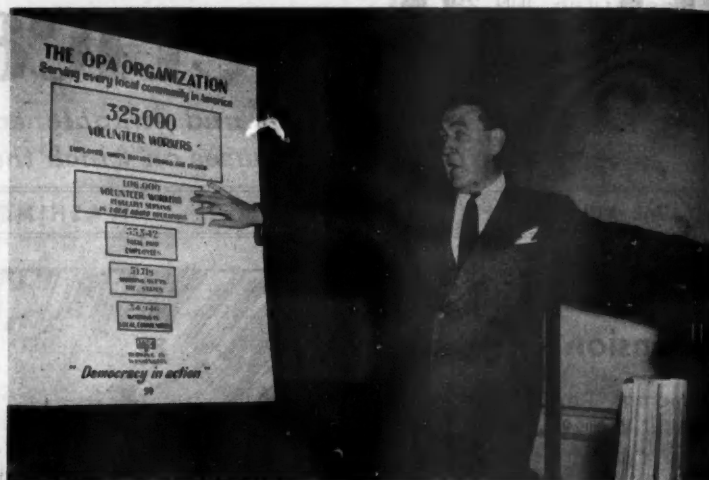
"There are 14 million rented dwelling units occupied by 45 million people covered by our rent-control regulations.

"Food rationing requires direct contact with 30 million housewives representing 132 million men, women, and children.

"Thirty-nine million drivers have to be issued gasoline rations. Of these, 16 million hold B and C books which must be tailored to the needs of the individual and which are reviewed and modified every three months.

"Fuel oil rationing adds another 12 million householders and building managers to our list of clients. Like the B and C gasoline rations, these too cannot be determined upon a uniform basis but must be tailored to individual needs.

"To carry the enormous responsibilities of the Office we have at this time a total of 161,000 workers. Of these, 55,000 are paid employees and 106,000



OPA Administrator Chester Bowles points out the size and importance of the Office of Price Administration to a congressional committee.

stitutes the largest governmental establishment in our history, except for the armed forces themselves. Yet this wartime force, enormous though it is, still falls short of the job it has to do."

Mr. Bowles admitted to the Senate committee that a great many mistakes—both serious and minor—had been made by those in charge of the price and rationing programs. Such mistakes, he contended, were inevitable in an undertaking so vast and so quickly launched by a nation with little experience along this line.

He agreed that the OPA, for a number of months after its establishment, was shot through with imperfections, and these, he said, could not be quickly eliminated because of the rapid growth in size and responsibility of the agency. The earlier forms of the OPA were too complex; its officials did not consult sufficiently with the industries affected by OPA regulations; its powers were too highly concentrated in Washington; its organization was cumbersome and inefficient, lacking clear and simple lines of responsibility; its higher officials were too seldom drawn from the ranks of business, whose cooperation was essential to the success of the program.

## Improved Organization

Today, according to Mr. Bowles, and there is much evidence to support his contentions, the OPA is a vastly improved organization. A great many forms and regulations have been simplified; business and consumer advisory committees have been set up all over the country; much more responsibility has been given to local war price and rationing boards, and the national organization has been streamlined, eliminating a large amount of confusion and overlapping authority which previously existed.

As a result of these improvements,

there is much less criticism of the OPA than in the past. Members of Congress are getting considerably fewer letters of protest against the agency than they did a year ago. And there is less criticism in Congress than was formerly the case.

Nevertheless, large numbers of people still look with disfavor upon the OPA. There is constant complaint that too many of the local volunteer workers display their authority in an offensive, discourteous manner. Some people feel that they are not treated fairly as compared with their neighbors. Still others blame the OPA for shortages of food and rationing inconveniences. Certain vested interests favor price and wage control for others but are opposed to such control when their own products or services are affected.

## Cost of Living

Despite all criticisms and ill feeling against the OPA, however, it is generally recognized that this agency has prevented the cost of living from rising nearly so high as it did during the First World War. While statistics on price increases vary considerably, according to what one group or another is trying to prove, there is substantial evidence to show that the cost of living has not soared half as high as it did in the earlier war. And during the past year, prices in general have practically been at a standstill. It is true that even though prices of certain products may not have actually risen, the quality of these goods has deteriorated. Moreover large numbers of people patronize the Black Market, paying much higher than prevailing prices for what they buy.

In spite of all this, however, the extent to which prices are being held down, at a time when people have enormous sums of money which they could spend to bid up prices of scarce civilian goods, is a major accomplishment. As for the future of the price and rationing program, Chester Bowles expressed the following hope in his recent appearance before the Senate committee:

"The time will come, no one can say how soon, when the present drain on our supplies will be reduced and when new production will be added to the resources of the United Nations. As demand and supply come more closely into balance, first in one field and then in another, the relaxation of price controls will be not only possible but wholly desirable.

At the same time, it is, of course, quite impossible to stake out a schedule—much less a time table. What I see, however, is the lifting of controls, first on this commodity or groups of commodities and then on that, as the available supplies increase and circumstances warrant. Step by step, and no one hopes more earnestly than I that the steps will follow closely together, we can lift our price controls.



The Nation's Props

not make it compulsory that the President take such action, however, and it remains to be seen what, if anything, he will do.

The fact is, therefore, that Congress, extending the OPA, weakened it in various ways and went on record in favor of raising some prices above their present levels. Critics claim that Congress, instead of strengthening the OPA so it could combat the Black Market more effectively, actually gave encouragement to price violators. Philip Murray, president of the CIO, has attacked the bill in the following manner:

The bill preserves only the pretense, not the practice of price control. The authority of OPA to impose price ceilings is not significantly altered, but its power to make anyone comply with the ceilings has been emasculated. Consumers will be gouged because OPA will be unable to protect them.

Such legislation sets a green light for violators and a danger signal for workers and every American family. To violators of the law and of OPA regulations it provides avenues of escape hitherto unknown in the statutes of this country.

Those members of Congress who supported the changes in the OPA indignantly deny that the revised bill is



Holding back the rising tide

are volunteers. The number of volunteers has been as high as 325,000 in connection with our major ration registrations.

"Of this force, 141,000 serve on or with the 5,400 local war price and rationing boards, 13,800 are in the 93 district offices, and 3,400 in the nine regional offices, and 3,800 are in the national office here in Washington. In the aggregate this organization con-



The vital decision



# Charles de Gaulle—French Enigma

GENERAL CHARLES DE GAULLE, head of the French Committee of National Liberation which now calls itself the Provisional Government of France, is represented as an enigma by those who have been in contact with him since the fall of France in 1940. His character is admittedly hard to appraise; his personality is difficult and does not invite approach. Yet he has high qualities of leadership and has inspired great devotion among his followers.

De Gaulle's military accomplishments win nothing but praise. From the time he completed his education at St. Cyr, the French West Point, he was marked as a man of exceptional ability and intellectual attainment. He served ably in World War I when he was wounded three times and was captured by the Germans. He afterward became professor of military history at St. Cyr, and was attached to the personal staff of Marshal (then General) Pétain.

## Military Leader

In these capacities he saw more clearly than other French military leaders and he profited by the lessons of World War I. He realized how the tank and the plane would change the character of a future war and he was among the first in any country to argue for the formation of armored divisions. He wrote articles and books elaborating his views and proposals. French officers would not listen to him, but the Germans did. Hitler's famous Panzer divisions were modeled after suggestions which de Gaulle made for France.

When French military officialdom pinned its faith on the Maginot Line to frustrate any German attack, it was de Gaulle who told them that no line could hold against the concentrated attack of combined air and mechanized ground forces. Subsequent events proved him right.

When the tragedy of the fall of France was being acted out in fear and confusion it was de Gaulle who gave the sanest and best advice. He first wanted the government and the remaining armed forces of France to retire to the region of Brittany and Normandy. He felt that the Germans could be held off there and that communications could be kept open to the British Isles. But the treachery which was to engineer the surrender of France was already in motion and de Gaulle's view did not carry. However, he did not give up. As the government retreated to Bordeaux, in the south of France, de Gaulle begged Premier Reynaud to go to Africa and to carry on the war from the colonies. A plan was drawn up to carry this out but it fell through at the last minute. Seeing that there was no hope de Gaulle fled to London.

He arrived in the British capital with one aide and with a few articles of clothing in a suitcase. His family was in France; he had no money and no friends. But he had a voice and his name, formerly obscure, had become known to France and to Britain. On June 18, 1940, before the final moment of French surrender, his voice went out over the British radio:

"Believe me, for I speak to you with full knowledge of what I say. I tell you that nothing is lost for France. The very same means that conquered us can give us one day the victory.

"For I tell you that France is not alone. . . . She has a vast empire behind her. . . . This war is not lim-

ited to the territory of our unhappy land. This war has not been decided by the Battle of France. This war is a world war."

Words of courage in the midst of the gloomy defeatism of Pétain who was certain that the war was lost and that England would be at the mercy of Germany within a few weeks. Words of courage to lift the hearts of bewildered Frenchmen and to re-

plete introvert. He is shy, gauche, and without warmth. He has never learned to smile easily." Another remarks that "to conceal his immense shyness, de Gaulle sometimes adopts a distant manner which some find annoyingly regal. Actually, he is terrified to meet new people. . . . He speaks English passably but rarely does, because he is afraid of being ridiculed." Still another writes in

majority of the people are for de Gaulle, and that Allied opposition has made him more of a hero than ever.

If this is true it is unlikely that the American and British governments will be able to withhold their recognition much longer. Only if it seems clear that a sizable portion of the French people are uncertain about de Gaulle will Roosevelt and Churchill continue to keep him at arm's length.



General Charles de Gaulle, as he set foot on French soil for the first time in four years, a few days after D-Day. The United States and Great Britain still refuse to recognize de Gaulle's Committee as the provisional government of France.

kindle the sparks of resistance in the nation's darkest hour. French men and youths outside of France began to fill the ranks of de Gaulle's "Free French" (later "Fighting French") forces. Inside France the resistance movement, the Underground, began to form. Not all French rallied to de Gaulle, for some put their trust in Pétain; but many did. And as time passed and as sentiment turned against Pétain and his policy of collaborating with Germany, de Gaulle became recognized more and more as the leader who had come forward to save the soul of France.

## Roosevelt Opposition

De Gaulle has done so much that it would seem there should be universal recognition of his title of leadership. But such recognition has not been forthcoming from the Allied governments. President Roosevelt is said to be much opposed to de Gaulle and it is reported that Churchill does not get along well with him.

Is this due to de Gaulle's difficult personality? Is it due to fears that he has a dictator complex and is personally over-ambitious? Is it due to mistrust of the radical and communist elements in his following? Or are there other misgivings? At the present time there is not sufficient information to answer. All we know is that something definitely is holding back recognition of de Gaulle.

With regard to de Gaulle's personality, one writer says he is "a com-

more hostile vein: "Politics and power have been his complete ruination, and he now has the Joan of Arc, savior of France, complex."

## Sensitive Person

These comments make de Gaulle out to be an extremely sensitive person with a deep sense of his own mission in life. He looks upon himself as the one man who had foresight and who warned of danger before others could see it. He had the courage to persist and fight on when others yielded or were too frightened and confused to act. He made an early and correct appraisal of the scope of this war before it had broadened into a truly global conflict. He is puzzled and injured because the Allies have so far refused to recognize his position.

Already difficult by his natural temperament, de Gaulle became more difficult than ever when he began to nurse an injury. The refusal of Roosevelt and Churchill to accord him the honor and position which he believes is his due set up a strong reaction within him. Whether matters have now gone too far to permit the patching up of relations is hard to say.

Reports about the feelings of the French inside France toward de Gaulle vary. His brief visit to Normandy, following the Allied landings, was for the most part enthusiastically welcomed although there were some traces of dissatisfaction and opposition. People who have come out of France recently insist that the great

## SMILES

"I tumbled over fifty feet this morning."  
"Why, you haven't a scratch on you!"  
"Of course not, I was getting out of a crowded bus."

"You sold our summer cottage mighty cheap, John," said Mrs. Jones.  
"Well, yes," replied her husband, "but you must remember we can always get more out of it by visiting them week-ends as guests than we could as hosts."

"Look, Henry, the wonderful broom I got at the rummage sale at the church."  
"Yes, dear, I know. The janitor just called about that very matter."

Girl: "A month ago I was just crazy about George, but now I don't care a snap for him."  
Friend: "Yes, isn't it strange how changeable men are!"

"Jane is a very systematic girl, isn't she?"  
"Yes, very. She works on the theory that you can find whatever you want when you don't want it by looking where it wouldn't be if you did want it."

A reporter, sent on his first assignment to cover a wedding, did not return to his office until the following morning. The city editor, demanding to know why a story had not been filed, received this answer:  
"There was nothing to report. The bridegroom was killed in a car smash on the way to the church and the bride died of shock. So there was no wedding and I just went home."



# The Story of the Week



FOR SUPER-FORTRESSES. In India as in China thousands of workers toiled to build the great landing fields from which American Super-Fortresses can operate. This base, somewhere in India, may now be in use.

## The War Fronts

With the fall of Cherbourg, the Battle of Europe ended its first stage. The beachhead has been rendered secure and our position on the continent has been consolidated. A major port through which men and supplies can be sent to the battlefronts has been obtained, and preparations can now go forward for the big battles of western Europe which may determine the outcome of the war before the end of the year.

Despite the damage which the Nazis had inflicted upon the docks and other installations at Cherbourg, it was expected that the necessary repairs would be made within a few days. In less than a week's time after the capture of the vital port it was expected to be handling more traffic than ever before. Men and supplies could be sent directly from the United States to the French front, rather than by way of England as in the past.

The long-awaited Russian summer offensive is now in full swing. Launched on the third anniversary of the Nazi attack upon the Soviet Union, the Russian armies struck in White Russia and aimed at the vital city of Vitebsk. As we go to press, an estimated 45,000 Nazi troops have been entrapped in the city. The present offensive is said to be the most powerful the Russians have yet launched. Thus, bit by bit, the grand strategy mapped at the Teheran conference is being unfolded.

The campaign in Finland continues to make progress. The Russians have captured the city of Viipuri, second city of Finland, and are pushing the Finns beyond. There have been numerous reports and rumors of renewed negotiations for an armistice between Russia and Finland, but thus far there have been no confirmations. From the military standpoint, the Finns' position is becoming daily more hopeless. It is recalled that it was the capture of Viipuri by the Russians which brought the war of 1939-1940 to a conclusion.

In the Pacific theater, equally important gains have been made by our side. Our position at Saipan, in the Marianas, has been made secure, with heavy losses to the enemy, both in planes, ships, and land forces. While we have not yet engaged the bulk of the Japanese fleet in decisive action,

the recent naval engagement in the waters between the Marianas and the Philippines must be classed as one of the important naval victories of the war. Our Navy is now in a position to dominate most of the Pacific Ocean, except the direct approaches to the Japanese homeland.

## Monetary Conference

Meeting at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, fiscal-minded representatives of 42 countries and the French Committee of National Liberation are studying plans for an international monetary fund and a Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The meeting, called by President Roosevelt, began July 1 and is expected to last about three weeks.

The chief purpose of the conference is seen to be the formation of definite proposals for postwar international economic cooperation. One plan which will be presented calls for an eight-billion-dollar, gold-based stabilization fund. This fund would be governed by a board on which every member nation is represented and by an executive committee. The fund is designed to foster the expansion of international trade by creating orderly and stable currency exchange rates. Advocates of the plan say that if this objective can be attained, serious economic disruption in the immediate postwar period will largely be prevented.

In discussing the conference, President Roosevelt said that the United States would in no way be bound by the conclusions reached. Participation in any program recommended will come only with congressional approval. He added, however, that the policy of the United Nations of studying various postwar problems before peace comes is a vast improvement over the way we entered the postwar period following the last war.

## 78th Congress, 2nd Session

A backward glance at the pre-recess accomplishments of the Second Session of the 78th Congress shows why Capitol Hill observers call the two-month vacation "well earned." Here is a summary of what the national legislators have done in the first six months of the session.

**SERVICEMEN'S LEGISLATION:** Enacted a soldier vote law; approved

mustering out pay; passed an omnibus soldier benefits measure, the GI Bill of Rights.

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Approved United States participation in United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and appropriated funds for its work; committees from both the House and the Senate worked with State Department officials on postwar problems in foreign affairs.

**TAXES:** Overrode a presidential veto of the tax bill and passed a tax simplification measure.

**DOMESTIC:** Encountered a veto of the ban on food subsidies and sustained it; agreed to continue subsidies now in existence until next year but banned such payments after that date unless there is a direct Congressional appropriation for that purpose; extended the life of the Office of Price Administration after changing several practices and procedures of OPA; established a method for terminating war contracts.

**PROVISIONS FOR WAR:** Extended Lend-Lease and turned over to the President 31 billion dollars to carry it out; appropriated to the Army and Navy all the money they may need for the rest of the war.

Valuable work of congressmen which is often overlooked is done in committees. Some of the studies made by this Congress will play an important part in legislation which will come up after the recess. These include postwar aviation policies, disposal of surplus commodities, world organization, international cartels, international currency stabilization and a world bank, postwar size of the Army and Navy, disposition of merchant shipping, postwar employment, public works, and taxes.

## UNRRA School

The training center for personnel of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration located at the University of Maryland is unique in several ways. It has an international student body and it is the first school of its kind ever established.

Competent specialists in the fields of economics, agriculture, nutrition, engineering, social work, medicine, and many others, have been selected from all nationalities to aid in the vast program of restoring war-stricken areas and peoples to a self-sustaining basis. These experts are given intensive courses in the practical and specific problems they will face after assignment to an UNRRA mission. They study the language, customs, and present conditions of the countries in which they will serve.

Strong emphasis is given to



U. S. ARMY FROM APPEAL. This American soldier, one of the Allied forces liberating Italy, receives a motherly kiss from an overjoyed Italian woman.

UNRRA personnel that their work will chiefly be of a supervisory nature. Existing organizations and resources of the country will be used to the fullest and there will be definite concentration on fostering local leadership.

## Future of Monarchies

The decision of the Greek government not to allow King George II to return to his country, until it has been liberated and a popular plebiscite has decided whether the Greek people want him back or not, emphasizes the whole problem of the future of European monarchy. Present indications now are that the Greek people would not welcome their former ruler, and it is thought unlikely that he will ever return to rule Greece. Under his rule from 1936 on Greece suffered under a despotic government which destroyed the constitution, terrorized the people with fascist police, banned books wholesale, and in other ways set up the trappings of dictatorship.



TALBOT IN WASHINGTON D.C.

Other monarchies, too, have been tainted with the fascist stain. King Peter, swept to the throne by reaction in Yugoslavia against the appeasement of Hitler by the former regent, Prince Paul, now has become the virtual prisoner of those same officials who discredited the nation earlier. There are men in his government who have had too many sympathies and connections with things fascist, and it is an open question whether Peter will be able to unite his country behind him after the war. The strong opposition of Tito to the present royal government makes Peter's future even more uncertain.

And, of course, the almost open alliance of the royal houses of Romania, Bulgaria, and Italy with fascism has greatly weakened their hopes of stability. It is a refreshing contrast to note that the war has only served to strengthen the position of the democratic monarchs of Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and the Netherlands, and it does not seem likely that King Leopold will be deposed in Belgium. But it is clear that this war, like the last one, has dealt a severe blow to the institution of monarchy.

## International Airways

The Civil Aeronautics Board will hold hearings soon in which some 100 United States airlines will ask permission to develop overseas air routes. Already a preview of the postwar international airways which may be flown by American commercial planes has been given by the CAB. A tentative plan, calling for 20 major routes



linking this country with nearly every important nation in the world, has been drawn up and it is this blueprint which will serve as a guide for airlines' expansion.

The network of air highways as outlined by the CAB would cover 60,000 route miles. Equipment likely to be used includes the new Constellation-type plane and the DC-4.

L. Welch Pogue, CAB Chairman, stated that no single airline will be permitted to hold a monopoly on overseas air routes without congressional sanction. The entire plan is expected to come under careful scrutiny from Capitol Hill, for the Senate committee which has been studying postwar aviation policy is said to oppose the granting of any franchises for overseas operations until it has had a chance to look into the matter.

Chairman Pogue points out that the routes designated by CAB are only tentative and that final planning must be postponed until international agreements, including landing rights, can be reached. The State Department has sent a draft of the proposed routes to other governments and will handle the negotiations necessary for putting the plan into operation.

### Voting Population

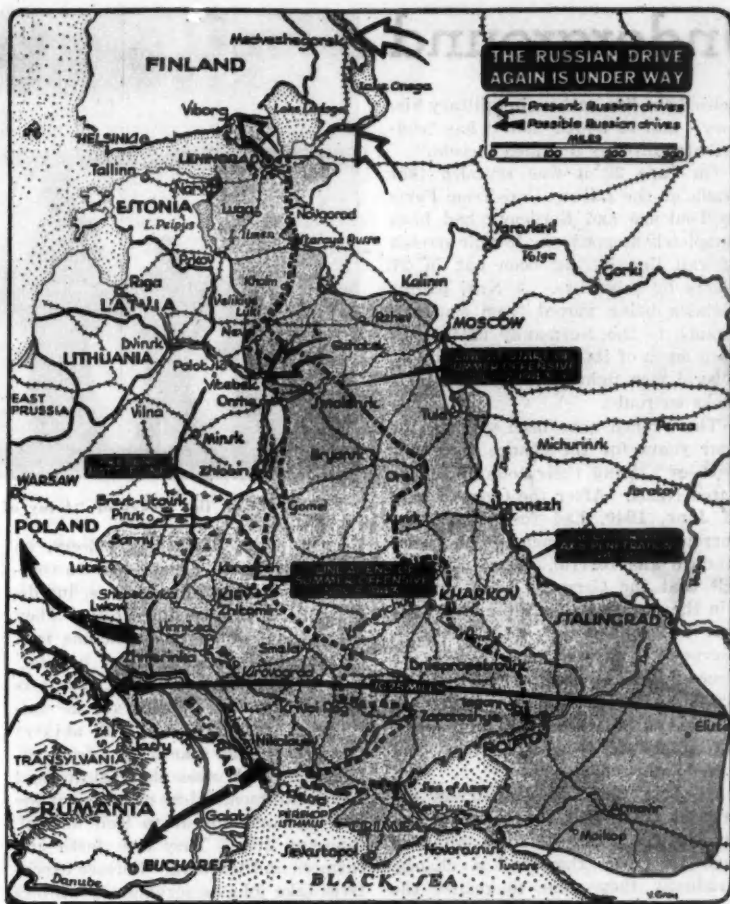
Political leaders predicted months ago that the nation's women would have the controlling voice in the 1944 election, and now there are figures from the Census Bureau to back up the forecast. For the first time in history, says the bureau, the United States has more women than men of voting age—by about 600,000.

The actual totals are: men of voting age, 44,043,669; women of voting age, 44,662,886. An estimated 7,860,000 of the men over 21 are serving in the armed forces.

There is no way to estimate, of course, how many service men will or will not vote, or how many war workers have temporarily lost their voting rights by having changed residences. But it is evident that the two political parties will pay a great deal of attention to making the strongest possible appeal to women voters.

### A Democratic Bull Moose?

Those who remember the story of the Republican Bull Moose campaign of 1912 see the possibility that President Roosevelt, if nominated, might suffer the same fate this year as President Taft suffered in the 1912 election. What happened then was simply a case of two men splitting the Republican



The Red Army resumes its push on the Eastern Front

vote so badly that the Democratic candidate was elected.

President Taft in 1912 was seeking re-election to a second term. However, his party had become divided over several matters, including the tariff, so that former-President Theodore Roosevelt was strongly opposed to Taft and sought the nomination for himself. When the Republican convention renominated Taft, Roosevelt organized the rival Bull Moose convention and was nominated by that group along with Senator Hiram Johnson as a running mate. As a result, Taft lost the election heavily, Roosevelt ran second, and the Democratic candidate, Wilson, slipped in the winner, even though he did not have a majority popular vote.

So far no rival convention has been set up in the Democratic camp this year. However, many threats have been issued from certain southern states that if their demands are not met their electors will be freed from

the obligation to support the candidate of the regular party convention.

Whether they would actually carry out this threat no one knows, and some observers do not believe that blocs of electors would likely ignore the mandate of the voters of their states: i.e., if the people of a given state strongly indicated their preference for the regular Democratic candidate, the electors would have a moral, if not a legal, obligation to vote accordingly.

But it is not outside the bounds of reason to imagine that the anti-Administration Democrats in several southern states might set up a rival national ticket, headed perhaps by Senator Byrd, and swing the voters of their states in support of this candidate. In this way Roosevelt might lose the several key southern states, and perhaps thereby lose the election itself in a close race.

### GOP Theme

As this issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER goes to press, the Republican National Convention is still in session at Chicago. It is regarded as a foregone conclusion that Governor Dewey will be nominated by an overwhelming majority, as he had gathered many additional votes as the convention met.

Governor Warren of California, in his keynote address, sounded the theme which will undoubtedly be repeated throughout the coming presidential campaign. He pledged the Republican party to "keep the war out of politics and politics out of war." The campaign will undoubtedly be fought on domestic issues. More than once the California governor lashed at the theory of the "indispensable man". He strongly criticized the bureaucracy which has developed under the Roosevelt administration, and declared that the Republican party would supply new and vigorous leadership.

It is apparent that the Republicans will seek to win the election by claiming that the Roosevelt administration has grown old and tired and inefficient

after more than 11 years in office and by urging the voters to "change horses in midstream" in order safely to arrive on the other side.

### Infantry Pay

The courage and tenacity with which American foot soldiers gained and held beachheads in French Normandy spurred Congress into action on a plan for recognizing the hazards which the infantry face. A bill recently enacted provides that \$5 will be added to the monthly pay check of a soldier holding the expert infantryman's badge and a \$10 pay boost will be given to the doughboy with the combat infantryman's badge.

Ernie Pyle, Pulitzer prize winning newspaper columnist, first advocated that extra pay be given the infantry overseas, declaring that they deserved some evidence that their sacrifices and hazardous life were appreciated. Secretary of War Stimson called for congressional action on the matter. He pointed out that the rate of casualties in the infantry was far out of proportion to the number involved in action. He added that the suggested salary increases could not be considered compensatory for the hardships infantrymen endure, as "such things cannot be paid for in money." A pay increase would, however, be valuable to the maintenance of high morale.

### Medals for War Heroes

A very important part of the work done by the United States mint is the manufacture of medals for war heroes. The mint has made medals for the brave of all the wars this country has fought, and today the medals are being turned out at a record rate in order to keep pace with the demands of war.

The first medal produced by the mint was awarded to Major Henry Lee of Virginia, in 1792. Other medals had been authorized before then by the early American government, but they had been made in other countries because the United States mint was not in existence. Until 1861, when Congress created the Congressional Medal of Honor, there was no mass production of medals. Each award was specifically authorized for the individual hero.

Most of the medals awarded by the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Maritime Commission are produced in the Philadelphia mint. Army medals were made there until depression years, but now are made by commercial manufacturers. The newest medal to be handled by the mint is the Bronze Star, soon to be awarded by the Navy "for heroic or meritorious achievement."



CHANGSHA. Vital city in the interior of China which has fallen to the Japanese. Japan is making serious gains within China while she is taking losses in the Pacific arena.

### The American Observer

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## The French Underground

THE Germans are fighting two battles in France. One is against the Allied armies in Normandy. The other is against the French Underground.

About the Battle of Normandy we know a great deal. We know just where each day's fighting takes place, who the leaders are, what the results are. About the other battle, we know very little by way of specific details, for both sides try to conceal the facts as much as possible.

In spite of the veil of silence that keeps details of the "Battle of the French Underground" out of the newspapers, we know that the battle has been raging with heightened fury during the month that has passed since D-Day, although it had begun long before. We know this because we had been told beforehand how well the French Underground was prepared to strike the Nazis in the rear as soon as Allied armies would appear on the beaches.

Just after the invasion of Normandy began, our leaders told us to expect heavy German counterattacks within 48 hours. But the counterattacks didn't come for eight days, and they were weaker than expected. The Nazis' delay and ineffectiveness were due chiefly to the prompt and efficient work of the unheralded French patriots behind German lines, according to a report sent from London by a New York Times correspondent.

General Eisenhower has praised the recent work of the French Underground, calling it "one of the greatest

behind-the-line actions in military history," and he added that it has "contributed directly to Allied success."

On June 22 it was revealed that traffic on the railway lines from Paris to Toulouse and Bordeaux had been completely stopped, one 19-mile stretch of rail line having been cut in 27 places by saboteurs. A Nazi panzer division being moved from southern France to the Normandy battlefield used much of its ammunition and lost several men fighting off guerrilla attacks en route.

The French have been waiting for four years for the chance they now have of ridding their country of the hated Nazis. After the German blitz of June, 1940, had forced France's surrender, the French people were stunned and fearful. Many of them felt that the Germans were sure to win the war and that their only hope was to "collaborate" with the conquerors. A few escaped to join the Free French forces of General de Gaulle in England and later in Africa. Thousands of others, still in France, determined to resist the Nazis and their Vichy collaborators.

At first the French patriots expressed their will to resist by impulsive acts of assassination and sabotage whenever they had a chance. Gradually they came to realize the need for organization, for husbanding their lives and resources, for more methodical methods of resistance. Today, says one of their leaders, "the Underground is a real army, the toughest and smartest of the old



(From the jacket of "Army of Shadows," by Joseph Kessel.)

French poilus and their officers, as well as civilians, organized into commando, sabotage, signal corps, intelligence, and engineering units. They cover the country; they include men of all classes and political beliefs."

It is indeed a real army, but it is no ordinary one. There are no uniforms. Authority goes with ability; former generals take orders from ex-lieutenants. Women share duties and risks with men. Most members of the Underground appear to lead normal, innocent lives. They are clerks and farmers and teachers. Former executives take jobs as servants or waiters in order to obtain information.

Some have separated themselves entirely from normal civilian life to live in mountain hideouts in southern and eastern France. These are the Maquis, the real guerrillas. Most of

them are young men, many of whom were forced to flee their homes in towns and villages to avoid being drafted for labor service in German war factories.

We have recently been given two fairly full pictures of how the Underground is organized and how it prepared to do its part in the great battle of liberation now raging. Both pictures are drawn from firsthand experience by men who left France last year. André Girard's report appeared in the May issues of *Tricolor* and the *Reader's Digest*. Joseph Kessel wrote up his experience in the form of a novel, using fictitious names and places in order to protect the persons involved, but basing every incident in the story on actual happenings. The book, entitled *Army of Shadows*, was published two weeks ago by Knopf.

## The Land and People of France

PERHAPS no nation in the world—aside from England—means quite so much to Americans as does France, beautiful country of cathedrals and vineyards, of sturdy peasants and volatile politics. Before the war France had long played a predominant part in world affairs, and had been famed as a great center of western civilization, of art, letters, philosophy, and science. Here, in outline, are the major facts about this once-great world power:

**Geography.** Metropolitan France, including the island of Corsica, comprises an area of some 212,600 square miles. From north to south its length is about 600 miles, and its width is about 400 miles except at the broadest point, from Strasbourg on the Rhine to the port of Brest on the Brittany peninsula, which are 560 miles apart. Its coastline extends for almost 2,000 miles along the Mediterranean, the Atlantic, and the Channel, while it shares land borders with Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and Spain.

The western third of France is low and level plains country for the most part. The central area is an upland which leads to high mountains in the south and east—the Pyrenees, the Cevennes, the Alps, and the Vosges. There are four important rivers: the Seine, the Loire, the Garonne, and the Rhone. The four largest cities are the great peace-time capital Paris, Marseilles, Lyons, and Bordeaux. The naval bases of Cherbourg, Brest, and Toulon, and the seaports of Le Havre, Dunkirk, Calais, and Boulogne are all of present importance.

**People.** According to a 1942 estimate, France had a population of 38,-

000,000. Only six years earlier the census had shown a population of almost 42,000,000. This sharp drop strikingly reveals one of France's gravest problems: a declining birth rate.

To the extent that one may generalize about a whole people, it may be said that the French are hard-working, shrewd, thrifty, extremely independent, and home-loving. Many of them have a genius for the artistic. Their love of learning is seen in France's exceedingly low illiteracy rate.

**Economy.** No other country in the world, with the exception of the United States and Russia, has so beautifully balanced an economy or is so self-sufficient as France. Both the land and the climate—though varied—are quite favorable for raising most of the food needed at home. France is a land of small farms, averaging 24

acres in size, and four out of five French farmers own the land they cultivate. This goes far to explain the great contentment and patriotism of the French countryman. There is comparatively little waste land, and nearly half the country is cultivated.

Agricultural products include large quantities of cereal grains (especially wheat), potatoes, sugar beets, a wide variety of fruits (including enormous quantities of grapes for wine-making), and vegetables.

France is rich in minerals, with especially valuable coal, iron, and bauxite deposits. These make possible a strong industrial organization in France, with emphasis on chemicals, silk and cotton textiles, perfumes, and iron products.

**Government.** For almost three-quarters of a century before the war France had been a republic with a

parliamentary system of government closely akin to that of Great Britain. Legislative power was in the hands of a National Assembly, consisting of a Chamber of Deputies elected by manhood suffrage every four years and a Senate elected indirectly for a term of nine years. The Assembly chose a President to serve for seven years, and the President in turn selected a premier and a cabinet—usually from the membership of the Assembly. The government of France was highly centralized under this system, with the affairs of the 37,000 communes (local units of government) and the 89 departments (very roughly corresponding to our states) closely supervised through representatives of the central government. Of course, since the surrender, the government has been controlled by the Nazis and has been highly authoritarian.

**Colonies.** France is mistress of the world's second largest colonial empire, covering an area of 4,693,000 square miles and holding a population in excess of 70,000,000. It includes almost all the great western bulge of Africa (Algeria, Tunisia, French West Africa, French Equatorial Africa, the protectorate of Morocco, and the mandates of the former German colonies, Togoland and Cameroon) plus French Somaliland, and the islands of Madagascar, Reunion, and Comoro in the Indian Ocean. There are French Indo-China and small sections of India; Syria and Lebanon (mandates); St. Pierre and Miquelon (off the coast of Newfoundland); Guadeloupe and Martinique (in the Caribbean); French Guiana in South America; and New Caledonia and the Society Islands in the Pacific.



Haying time in the French Pyrenees



# Relations with de Gaulle

(Concluded from page 1)

gions of Normandy which have been liberated. These representatives of the provisional government have established themselves in Bayeux and other cities, have removed local political authorities who were suspected of being pro-Vichy or pro-German.

At the same time, the Allies have sent in their own set of officials to look after civil affairs in the liberated areas of France. These consist of British and American officers who have been especially trained to handle civil affairs in the wake of military occupation. These men make up the Military Section of Civil Affairs. Thus there are two sets of officials dealing with the problems of civil administration in Normandy. So far, there has been no friction between the two groups, but it is doubtful whether friction can be avoided as the complex problems of administration arise.

It is admitted on all hands that the present confused state of affairs which prevails on the diplomatic front is not only unfortunate but may become dangerous. Unless a satisfactory formula can be worked out, ill feeling may cloud our relations with France for years to come. The French are an extremely sensitive people and many of them resent the infringement upon their independence which Allied policy implies.

Symbolic of the rift between the French and the British and Americans was the absence of French troops in the invasion forces. Although French forces have fought brilliantly in Italy,

1940, the government of France, duly elected by the people, was destroyed and the French people were placed in captivity. Unlike the governments of several other countries which were overrun by the Nazis, the French government did not go into exile to continue the functions of government. Thus, for four years there has been no body which could properly be considered the true and legitimate government of France.

It is true that General de Gaulle shortly after the surrender organized the only group which has offered effective resistance to the Nazis and which has symbolized the French will to arise anew. It is true that de Gaulle has been able to rally not only those elements of resistance which were able to escape from France but also a large section of the French Underground.

## Extent of Cooperation

While the United States and England have not extended full recognition to de Gaulle and the Committee of National Liberation as the governing body of France, they have gone far toward cooperating with the de Gaulleists. In August 1943, President Roosevelt recognized the French Committee as the body with authority to administer "those French overseas territories which recognize its authority." In April of this year, Secretary Hull further clarified our policy by stating: "We are disposed to see the French Committee of National Liberation exercise leadership to establish law and order under the supervision of the Allied commander-in-chief."

But in all these gestures, it has been made clear that we have not extended recognition to de Gaulle as the temporary government of liberated France. The President has emphasized the fact that no such government can be set up until the French people have had the opportunity to elect their own representatives and decide upon their form of government.

This is the official explanation of our policy. There is the further feeling that if de Gaulle and his group were now recognized as the provisional government of France, they would enjoy an undue advantage in determining the future of France. De Gaulle would follow the liberating armies and establish themselves in political control of the country. Then, when the time came for the French people to determine their future, they would be greatly influenced by the strong position already occupied by de Gaulle and his followers.

There is the further element of General de Gaulle's personality (see page 3). Although it is not officially recognized as a factor in our French policy, it is nevertheless no secret that certain government officials in Britain and America fear that de Gaulle might seek to establish personal rule.

Recently, considerable publicity has been given to a story published some time ago in the *United States News*, which claims that our French policy is dictated by de Gaulle's insistence that the French Empire, as it existed in 1939, be restored intact to the French and that the Roosevelt administration is insistent upon certain guarantees for future American security. The *United States News* story declared:

Mr. Roosevelt and his advisers do not forget that the French, without a fight, turned over to Japan the big French



Life begins again in the French town of Isigny after it has been taken by the Allies

naval base at Saigon in Indo-China, thereby enabling Japan to outflank and reduce Singapore, and to cut U. S. access to rubber and tin. The President remembers that, when the U. S. was hardest pressed by German submarines, the French island of Martinique served as a hostile dagger aimed at the vitals of our defenses in the Caribbean. He has said definitely that French Dakar cannot again be left under a control that will threaten the approaches to this Hemisphere.

The President is concerned over the future of these strategic spots. He is thinking of other French possessions also—Madagascar, New Caledonia, French Guiana, the islands of Miquelon and St. Pierre. He is unwilling to see the whole French Empire restored intact, without guarantees that will protect the security of the U. S. General de Gaulle, on the other hand, insists on the restoration of France as a sovereign world power. He claims full rights to all French possessions. He is adamant in his demands. The unyielding attitude of General de Gaulle regarding these possessions is said to be the real explanation for Mr. Roosevelt's reluctance to give complete recognition to the de Gaulle committee as the government of France.

Whatever the reason, many people in this country and England are strongly opposed to the policy of non-recognition which has been followed and urge an immediate change in that policy. They claim that to continue such a policy will not only prolong the war by failing to unite the French people solidly behind the Allied armies,

but also endanger the peace. Already the seeds of distrust have been sown because the French people have come to suspect our motives, feeling that our purpose is to impose our will upon them.

To refuse recognition to the de Gaulle forces on the ground that they have not been duly elected by the people is to beg the question, it is argued. They are the only organized body which has widespread support among the French people. The government which existed in 1939 has been dissolved, with some of its members prisoners of the Germans, others members of the Vichy regime, but many of them now members of the de Gaulle Committee of National Liberation. By having the support of a majority of Frenchmen who have escaped from France as well as of the underground organizations, de Gaulle may indeed be said to represent the wishes of the French people.

De Gaulle and his followers emphasize the fact that they wish to be recognized merely as the "provisional" or temporary government of France, to hold power only until elections can be held. They have pledged themselves to hold free elections as soon as France is liberated.



Beacon on the bridgehead

have reclaimed the island of Corsica for France, and recently succeeded in taking the island of Elba, there were no French units in the invasion forces. And although the Tricolor of France flies alongside the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack in those cities and towns of France which have been taken from the Nazis, Frenchmen who have been training for four years for the liberation of their country were not among the armed forces of the Allies. All this is a blow to French pride.

Why, when so much is at stake, have the British and Americans hesitated to extend to General de Gaulle and his committee the recognition they seek as provisional government of France? Admittedly, the United States has taken the lead in the matter of French policy. The British have merely followed that lead. It is generally felt that President Roosevelt himself is largely responsible for our failure to extend recognition to de Gaulle and his followers. The explanation given runs something like this:

When France surrendered in June

## Questions from the News

1. As a result of the amendments adopted by Congress, the OPA has been greatly strengthened, or greatly weakened?
2. Describe two of the more important of these amendments.
3. Who is the present head of the Office of Price Administration?
4. Tell something about the activities of the OPA, as described by its director.
5. What are the principal contributions of the OPA program?
6. How are the civil affairs of the liberated regions of France now being administered?
7. What are the principal issues between General de Gaulle and the Anglo-American governments?
8. What justification is given by supporters of the American policy? What claims are made by the followers of General de Gaulle?
9. How does the question of French bases enter into the dispute?
10. Why is an early settlement of the dispute essential?
11. Tell something of General de Gaulle's military background.
12. List some of the activities of the French Underground since the invasion.

13. Why may it be said that the first stage of the invasion ended with the fall of Cherbourg?
14. What are some of the more important measures adopted by the session of Congress just ended?

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# Points of View

## What Authors and Editors Are Saying

(The ideas expressed in these columns should not be taken to represent the views of the editors of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

### Advice on Latin America

Alberto McGeachy, a Panama newspaper editor, on a recent trip to the United States, declared that North American businessmen after the war will have great opportunity for trade with our neighbors to the South. He coupled his prediction with some friendly advice which occasioned the following editorial in the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*:

The sum and substance of his [Señor McGeachy's] suggestions was that we must learn to know the ways and meet the needs of Latin Americans if we expect to do business with them. His suggestions included a knowledge of Spanish, a willingness to abandon all so-called high-pressure selling and an understanding of the fact that liberal credit terms are necessary.

He suggested, too, that the salesman who is to succeed in Latin America must have an adequate background of information and appreciation of the customs and backgrounds of the countries he visits.

It is obvious, we think, that relations between the United States and a great many of the Central and South American nations are better than they have ever been, and that they are susceptible of far greater improvement. It is likewise true that the war has cut off both the United States and Latin America from certain pre-war markets and thus produced an amount of trade substantially greater than usual.

It is the part of wisdom for us to realize that the question of whether we hold and expand our markets will be answered by whether we take to heart the kindly admonitions of Señor McGeachy and other men of good will among our neighbors.

### Youth in Germany

A Swiss journalist recently returned to neutral Bern after spending six months in Germany. Summarizing his firsthand observations, the Swiss told an American friend:

The widespread notion that German youth is moving away from Hitler is absolutely wrong. From what I have seen, I venture to say that at least two-thirds of the boys between 10 and 20 are the most fanatical Nazi bloc in Germany.

I talked to a great many members of the Hitler youth and I asked each of them separately what he would do if they should lose the war. Almost invariably the answer was: "We would start all over again."

This quotation was reported by Ernest Zaugg in the *Christian Science Monitor*. Mr. Zaugg, writing from

Bern and basing his report entirely on what his German-traveled Swiss friend had told him, gives these additional glimpses of youth in Germany in 1944:

My informant said that as a rule relations between parents and children were strained. The children blamed the parents for being "defeatists" and not doing enough for Hitler. The parents, in many cases, were virtually afraid of their children.

School hours have been reduced to an average of 15 hours weekly. Children from 10 years upward have to do some kind of part-time work, either in factories or on farms, or in scrap drives. Boys of 14 years and over are serving in flak batteries and civilian defense organizations, where they have long hours of training. What school education they receive is of doubtful value, with Nazi theories dominating all disciplines and most of the teachers either too young or too old. . . .

Hitler has nothing to fear from the present generation of German youth at this time.

Nazism has taken root so firmly in the thought of Germany's teen-age boys that they must be expected to support the Fuehrer until his overthrow is complete.

Not even the complete collapse of the regime is likely to make them change their ideas. They will either join an "underground" Nazi party whose contours are already becoming visible, or they will grow into resentful and emotionally frustrated men.

### Fan Kuai

Most Americans of taste and good will refrain from using the epithets "wop" or "nigger" or "Chink" when referring to, or addressing, Italians or Negroes or Chinese. Fewer of us know that "Britisher" is offensive to the Briton; that "dardie" is offensive to the Negro; that "Charlie" and "Chinaman" are offensive to the Chinese.

A parallel distinction troubles the cultured people of China, who are attempting to teach their countrymen to speak of Americans—and other Westerners—as *Sai Ying* rather than as *Fan Kuai*. The problem is explained by Walter Kong, a Chinese-American, in *Survey Graphic*:

The Chinese still call Westerners *Fan Kuai*, "foreign devil." When European traders first landed in China, their white skin, reddish hair, and blue eyes caused consternation among the Chinese. Being seafaring adventurers, these first comers were as a rule big and rough, insolent in speech and cruel in conduct—to the peaceful inhabitants of China, devils indeed. Immediately, the Chinese called them *Fan Kuai* and later the term was indiscriminately applied to all Westerners. . . .

There is no way of telling how many Westerners—travelers or residents in China—have been antagonized by this uncomplimentary epithet and returned to



Systematic indoctrination and training has made fanatical Nazis of German youth.

their homeland with a dislike for the Chinese because of it. But one thing is certain, the term has never been a generator of good will. "The Chinese despise and hate us. They call us 'foreign devils'."

This familiar comment overlooks the fact that time and frequent usage have robbed the words of their original meaning, and today they carry none of their early contempt. In fact, *Fan Kuai*, to the Chinese, has become a harmless synonym for Occidental. However, that does not soothe a Westerner's feeling nor lessen the offense the words give.

For some time a silent campaign has been going on among the Chinese, notably the Christians and the educated, to refer to an Occidental as *Sai Ying* (Westerner). Even in intimate circles, out of the hearing of any Westerner, this practice is encouraged, and to use *Fan Kuai* is coming to be regarded as a mark of vulgarity.

### Watch Out for Swindlers!

An editorial in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* passes on a timely warning:

Americans will have, in war bonds and mustering-out pay, many millions of dollars with which to become purchasers—or suckers—after the war; and swindlers are already engaged in postwar planning to separate the fool and his money with traditional swiftness. A warning on the subject is issued by the Northwestern National Life Insurance Co.

Already, the company reports, racketeers are engaged in preparing sucker lists by means of telephone campaigns—allegedly under the auspices of the government or some reputable civic organization—to locate owners of war bonds. Swindlers claiming to be engaged in the publication of biographies of war heroes are trying to shake down the heroes' families.

The insurance company's survey also has disclosed job-finding rackets in which a registration fee or bond deposit is made away with; swindle sales of partnerships, inventions, farm lands; benefit affairs that benefit only the confidence sharp.

Veterans in particular, and citizens in general, are going to be large, distinct targets for the unscrupulous. They will find it even more advantageous than

usual to look carefully into the credentials of everyone who asks them to part with information or money, and, in case of doubt, to ask their local Better Business Bureau what's what.

### Scientific Commando Raid

The role of scientists in the war has frequently been recognized. We have been told how the ablest scientific minds are ceaselessly at work in laboratory retreats, far from the battlefronts, devising new and better implements of war. Now we learn that some of them must also brave dangers as serious as those encountered by any combat troops. A striking example is provided by the report just released of a daring commando raid by scientists preceding the invasion of Normandy. Says the *New York Times*:

Because some tanks and guns are heavy and because the sands of Normandy can be treacherous, engineers in a daring scientific commando raid conducted a private invasion of their own month ago for no other purpose than that of collecting samples of French soil to be tested in England in order to prepare the way for the landing of heavy material.

This exploit ranks with any thus far recorded. Drilling apparatus had to be landed, and probably a whole night—many nights, for all we know—had to be spent in patiently sinking and casing holes to depths of perhaps a hundred feet and more and in driving soil-collecting tubes into the bottom of holes with rams, jacks, and levers. No hurried job was this. It demanded coolness and patience. All this was accompanied with much library work in London to determine the geological structure of northern France and to find out how buildings centuries old had settled in towns that will eventually be reached. When the tracks and thick concrete beds are laid for the heavy guns of which we shall hear later, the Army engineers will be guided by a map which was made by the commando raiders and which indicated what allowances must be made for unstable soil.



## Who Dares to Talk to Them About a Third World War?

They were at Tarawa.

Many of them now wear empty sleeves, or bandages where their eyes were. And a thousand and twenty-six will rise up never from the sands of Tarawa Island.

They couldn't hear it. In the roar of that tornado, as they fought and fell, so far from the hills of home, they couldn't hear the words: "... history repeats ... and what will we get out of it but ... how can we police ...

the next one will be against ... already sowing the seeds for ... and twenty years from now, brother ... the Third World War ..."

In elevators, on the street, in plush chairs that let you down easy, in columns and editorials and from the political stump.

What is the matter with us? Can't we at home at least go into peace with some spark of their courage and determination that this war is not another mockery, not just another World War? Let no man give voice to that weak and deadly cynicism. Let him stand up and think straight and have the courage to call the lie to any man in public or private life who fails to do the same.

(The above challenge was recently published in national magazines in an advertisement of the Bryant Chucking Grinder Company of Springfield, Vermont.)



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